

The Signal experience

1LT Larry Foss

U.S. Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.

Bachelor of science in systems engineering

Operations systems officer

Headquarters and Headquarters

Company, 93d Signal Brigade

Joint Task Force Aguila

(Hurricane Mitch disaster relief),

El Salvador

"I thought it was a wonderful experience. On a humanitarian mission, it's not essential that you know the language of the country. They understand one thing - that you're there to help.

Regardless of whether you're doing your unit's mission of cleaning water or providing communications for the joint task force, or if you're simply out on an orphanage trip, they appreciate it and you can see it. It's very fulfilling as a soldier to be able to that.

"We had a system where we had Internet in the field through a primary pipeline and through a secondary pipeline in case the first one went down. We had more Internet access than has ever been provided in the field. I have a feeling that later on this will become the actual framework for most joint task forces.

"Providing communications for a joint task force wasn't beyond our scope because of all the exercises we do. They push us out in the field quite often. Our technicians have a lot of experience at getting the technical bugs worked out. Our phone services were outstanding; troubleshooting was quick. The joint task force personnel had nothing but good things to say about our services."



1LT Larry Foss and two girls left parentless by Hurricane Mitch get acquainted at an orphanage in El Salvador.



Signalers go anywhere in the world, doing whatever it takes to set up comms, like this soldier climbing a tree to string cable.



1LT Robert Svoboda

Reserve Officers' Training Corps

Northeastern University

Bachelor of arts in political science

Executive officer, D Company

1110th Signal Battalion

Fort Bragg, N.C.

"Serving as a Signal soldier has provided me with vast opportunities to excel. From 'Freedom's Frontier' in Korea to my current assignment as the 'Voice of the Warfighter' at Fort Bragg, I've worked with terrific Signal soldiers and managed some of the most advanced communications equipment in the world. As the Signal Regiment continues to develop and field new technology for the 21st century, I look forward to working with great soldiers and leading them into the new millennium."